



Olton and District u3a

March 2026

Newsletter 109

Website - oltonanddistrict.u3asite.uk



Welcome to the newsletter for March. This is my penultimate newsletter and as yet we still need someone to take over the role of newsletter editor. Within our many members there must be a willing person to take on this task. Spring is here or it is coming, this really depends on whether you take the meteorological start or the astronomical start of this season. Either way it is lovely to see the bulbs pushing through the ground to provide some spring colour.

NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEE

News from past chair - Jo R.



Daffodil Time

“It is that time of year again but 2026 is a special year as it is 10 years since the inauguration of Olton and District u3a. We thought only a few people would attend this event and were very surprised when over 100 people came to hear about the new u3a, I was handing out daffodils but soon discovered that we didn't have enough.

On our first anniversary a cake was made bearing daffodils on top and we went to a local hotel for an afternoon tea of which I still have the photos. This year I will be handing out daffodils with a difference to celebrate our 10th anniversary, so look forward to seeing members from those days as well as new.”



Speaker Secretary - Beverley P.



“At the February core meeting Rob Elliott came along with his uniforms, weapons and banners to talk about ‘The British Army in the 18th Century’. It was interesting to hear about the different hats which mirrored fashion and were totally impractical. Waistcoats got their name as they were last year's coats with the arms removed. We were shown how to load a Flintlock and the difficulties men faced loading these especially on horseback!.

In **March** we are having 2 speakers to enlighten us on ‘The Car and Crown’.

In **April** we will hear all about the Philippines.

Just a reminder that I am stepping down from this role so we need someone to replace me. Please get in touch if you are interested. My email is oltonu3a54bev@gmail.com”

Recycling Opportunities



“ We will have a collection box for any used cartridges at the next core meeting. Any money raised from this will be used to support Olton and District u3a. We have so far raised over £200.00 by recycling used ink cartridges.”

NEWS FROM OUR INTEREST GROUPS

Creative Writing Group - Gordon C.

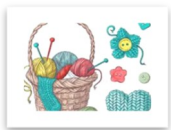


“At our February 2026 meeting we were delighted with the news that our member Trish Hartop is a runner up in the National u3a Short Story Competition, that also attracted international entries. Well done Trish; we are immensely proud of you.

Our February meeting saw discussion on our started piece. Sue wrote the beginnings of a short story and we each provided our own finish. It was an intriguing plot involving a body in the lake at a holiday park.

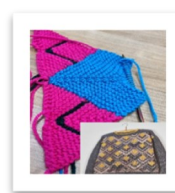
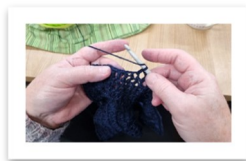
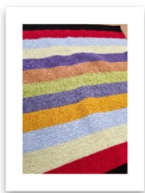
Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 1st in The Central Library at 2:15 pm when we will present our writings entitled ‘Better late than never’.”

Craft and Chat - Jan B.



“The Craft and Chat group met on the 26th February to have a good natter over a cuppa. Our knitters and sewers have all been busy producing some of the products below.

Marion made the blanket for Cats Protection, **Carolyn** is crocheting a shawl, **Val** is making a baby jacket, **Carol** is knitting a test piece before embarking on the jumper and **Jan** is sewing English paper pieced hexagons.



Our next meeting will be on 26th March at Olton Library.”

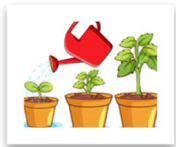
Scrabble & Rummikub - Chris F



“Here we are in March already, but on a lovely sunny day, 8 members turned up to play the games and a pleasant time was had by one and all. The meeting in April will be cancelled due to it being Easter Monday with some of the members doing other things.

The next meeting would be May Day so not sure about that one but will check with the members later this month to see if it would be viable.”

Garden lovers' group - Rob C.



“Seventeen garden lovers visited Baddesley Clinton on Friday 13th February. Unfortunately the weather that day was atrocious with driving rain and most of us confined ourselves to the tea room and a tour of the house. A few hardy members did splosh their way through the puddles to see the snowdrops. This is what they saw (Photo taken a couple of days before the visit by Rob).



There is not a garden lovers meeting in March and the next meeting will be on Friday 17th April. We will go on a self-drive visit to Tulley's tulip garden at Hatton Country world. I will start with lunch at about 1pm and then go to the tulip fields at 2pm. Tickets for the tulip garden are available on line and currently the availability for 17th April at 2pm is good. Although tickets may be available on the day itself (depending on demand) it is recommended that advance booking on line to guarantee entry.”

Quiz Group - Hilary B. and Carol O.



“To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Olton & District u3a, can you find the answers, which all begin with TEN, to these short clues? The number of letters in each answer is given to help you, e.g. Camping equipment (4) = TENT.

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Someone who pays rent (6) | 6. Mental strain (7) |
| 2. Male singing voice (5) | 7. South Wales resort (5) |
| 3. Poet Laureate (8) | 8. Sore (6) |
| 4. Joins muscle to bone (6) | 9. Octopus appendage (8) |
| 5. 'Dr Who' actor (7) | 10. WWII oriental TV drama (5) |

Here are the answers to **February's Landmarks** quiz.

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|--------------|----------------|
| 1. India | 6. UAE (Dubai) |
| 2. Australia | 7. Israel |
| 3. Cambodia | 8. Mexico |
| 4. Italy | 9. China |
| 5. Greece | 10. Canada |

The Quiz Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1.30pm at Olton Friary. Our next meeting is on Thursday, March 12th. Carol and Hilary would be pleased to see you if you would like to join us.”

If you have any items you would like included in the April newsletter, please send them to me at oltonu3aeleanor@gmail.com